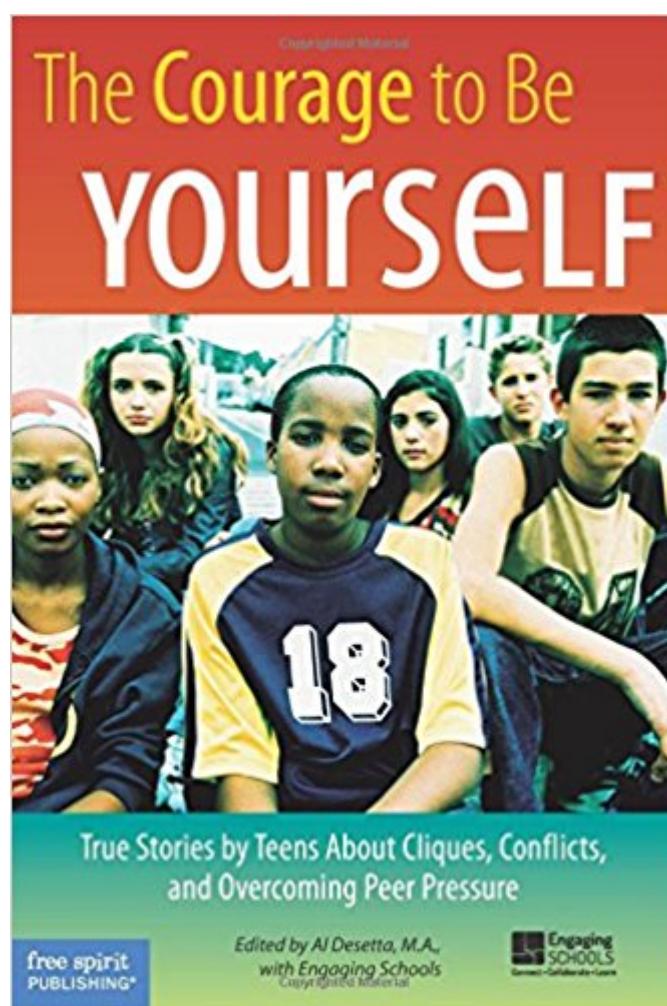


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# The Courage To Be Yourself: True Stories By Teens About Cliques, Conflicts, And Overcoming Peer Pressure



## **Synopsis**

Cassandra is hassled by her friends for sitting with the à œwrongsâ • kids at lunch. Jennifer gets harassed because sheâ ™s overweight. Dwanâ ™s own family taunts her for not being à œblack enough.â • Yen is teased for being Chinese; Jamel for not smoking marijuana. Yet all find the strength to face their conflicts and the courage to be themselves. In 26 first-person stories, real teens write about their lives with searing honesty. They will inspire young readers to reflect on their own lives, work through their problems, and learn who they really are.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 160 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #342,470 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 inÂ Books > Teens > Social Issues > Being a Teen #52 inÂ Books > Teens > Social Issues > Prejudice #100 inÂ Books > Teens > Social Issues > Self-Esteem & Self-Reliance

## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 8 Upâ “It’s a challenge to remain true to one’s self in a world that encourages conformity to a narrowly prescribed norm. It is especially difficult when the individual is a teen. Here, Desetta presents 26 short essays from young people who have faced this challenge head-on and found ways to survive if not happily, at least tolerably. From a gay teen who is harassed by peers to overweight and unfashionable girls who are ridiculed because of their physical appearance; from an African-American teen who isn’t black enough to an Arab American who is a target of hate after September 11, the selections cover the spectrum of being different or other. What the essays have in common is the willingness on the part of the contributors to accept that they cannot control how others view them but only how they perceive themselves. These young people demonstrate that by having the courage to be themselves, they are equipped to live without compromising their ideals. Though not all the stories have happy endings, readers who are struggling with similar issues will be comforted and perhaps inspired by the honesty and poignancy of these narratives.â “Elaine Baran

Gr. 8-11. The subtitle says it all. These teens have written their own stories with all the plodding earnestness of a school report. The format consists of the essays followed by pedantic questions, e.g., "Why do you think some people pick on gays and lesbians?" That said, there is certainly some value in hearing teens of many ethnicities and orientations speaking plainly about being fat, or being from India in a school full of blond, blue-eyed folk, or being Arab after 9/11. There's even a gently funny anonymous piece by a black teen who loves musicals but would never admit to his passion for *The King and I* or *The Sound of Music*. Despite its faults, this is a useful item. GraceAnne DeCandidoCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

## BOOK FOR THE UMW book study for 2017

Excellent

This collection of moving stories about teens in their own words are really effective discussion starters in classrooms or circles.

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